

OUSD Legislative Coalition

March 4, 2026

Orange Unified District Office

1401 Handy St (Panther Lab)

Orange, CA 92867

APPROVED

Present: Mariana Flores (U.S. Rep Lou Correa), Sergey Khachateyan (U.S. Rep Young Kim), Lilian Grabowski (State Senator Stephen Choi), Justin Massey (State Senator Umberg), Jenna Poffenberger (State Assemblymen Phillip Chen), Paula Guerra (Assemblyman Avelino Valencia), Sara Pelly (OUSD Board of Education), Kris Erickson (OUSD Board of Education), Andrea Yamasaki (OUSD Board of Education), Rachel Monarrez (OUSD Superintendent), Matthew Witmer (OUSD), Lisa Green (OUSD), Jacquelin Perez (OUSD), Ashley Higuera (OUSD), Whitney Amsbary (OUEA/OURT), Joseph Wilhelm (OURT/OSEA), Nicol Jones (OUPSF), Arash Samadani (OUC PTA), Jennah Ross (Chapman Hills), Nadia Hall (Jordan Academy), Kimberly Buchan (Linda Vista), Melissa Engel (McPherson Magnet Academy), Sueann Parikh (Nohl Canyon), Lindsay Whiddon (Serrano Elementary), Roxanne Castillo (West Orange), Wendy Wolf (Cerro Villa MS), Bianca Alcock (Canyon HS), Kim VanderHoek (El Modena HS), Kathy Moffat (Member at Large), Crystal Miles (Member at Large), Frank Miller, (Fletcher Elementary).

Quorum was established.

Call to Order: Lindsay Whiddon called the meeting to order at 11:05am.

Secretary: Nadia Hall presented the February 2026 minutes. An opportunity to discuss or make corrections to the previous minutes was provided. Nadia Hall motioned to approve the minutes, Joseph Wilhelm seconded. No objections. February 2026 minutes were approved.

Mariana Flores, US Representative Lou Correa

- Representative Correa signed onto a follow up letter to support students that have been affected by ICE and immigration enforcement.
- Supports fully funding staff for English learners and to protect federal funding hire and fund ESL teachers.
- Mariana Flores had an opportunity to listen to Dr. Oliver Lopez - he shared about his story. He is a DACA student and discussed the impact education had on the trajectory of his career.
- Appropriations and funding: congressman is looking at 2027 fiscal funding for programs such as free school lunches, cal grants, low income, IDEA, head start and early head start.
- Congressional Art Competition: the deadline is April 15. It is open to HS students. Participants are required to drop off their art pieces at the district office. Two winners will be selected. They will receive 2 free tickets to Washington DC, prize money and will meet members of Congress. The winners' art will be hung for 1 year. Check Representative's website for information. Flyers provided. There is no theme, students are welcome to submit anything they would like to.

Suergey Khachateyan, U.S. Representative Kim

- Happy Women's Month!
- Congresswoman signed onto bipartisan bill for \$86 million: Stop School Violence (supports mental health and suicide prevention). Believes it is essential to the safety of American children in school. This bill would be covering students nationwide.

- Congressional Art Competition: America's 250th anniversary. The deadline is 4/10/2026.

Lilian Grabowski, State Senator Steven Choi

- Senate resolution 73 recognizes January School Board Recognition month (passed in February 2026) - follows nationwide recognition.
- SB122 career tech program through OCDE - introduced as a bill on Feb. 19. It would be a 3 year pilot, creating a program for OCDE. It would serve as a statewide model using 4 million dollars from the state budget.
- Question: What is the senator's position on the governor's proposition to withhold \$5 billion from Prop 98? Lilian will follow up with Senator Choi and report back at the next meeting.

Justin Massey, State Senator Umberg

- Reach out to senator about bills you want him to support
- Supportive of prop 55 extension -continuing for higher income taxes for high income
- Women of distinction award- app until 3/5 5:00pm
- Position on governor's position to withhold money from Prop 98 - will follow up with Senator Umberg and report back.
 - Suggests making phone calls and or email to our senators.

Jenna Poffenberger, State Assemblymen Phillip Chen

- Went to lunar new year celebration at villa park
- Ab1569: update: currently in education committee waiting to be heard. Allows 1,2,3. K-12 park their ebike on campus must complete safety and training planning. Will require proof of completion.
 - How will work out with different training CHP developed safety course. It will be at the discretion of school.
 - CHP provides that course - schools that have a course in place before Jan. 1st will be exempt.
 - Who does enforcement? Believes schools but will check.
 - Canyon HS and El Rancho worked with SRO student resources for incoming 9th graders - PTSA - parents and students invited another one in September.
 - Came out of villa park HS - had a pilot program - with city ordinance with SRO and Anaheim PD.
 - The DA is bringing charges to parents that modified a students' bike.
- Question: Position on governor's stance to withhold money from 98? Will follow up with assemblymen and report back

Paula Guerra, Assemblyman Avelino Valencia

- Due to it being a controversial bill, Assemblyment discontinued the Mentorship Bill - for young men in High School and Community College that are at risk (have interacted with the justice system). The bill proposes to pair the student with a mentor to help guide/mentor the young men. It could be contentious due to only being available for young men. A committee is being gathered.
- AB1956 - add young boys and men as priority group in suicide prevention groups.
- Woman of the year - invitations on the way 4 from orange - hosting brunch to recognize in late March. 6-12th but also looking at college men and men of color.
 - Hoping to be community wide effort -schools, private sector, wellness centers.

- 5-6 bills (1 ab1956 is only one on education)
- Position on governor's stance to withhold funding from Prop 98? Will follow up and report back.

Wendy Wolf:

Next meeting: Legco members agreed to move the meeting to April 8th to avoid meeting during Spring Break.

Treasurer: Lindsay Whiddon gave the Treasurer's Report. \$200 payment was made to Nadia Hall for Sacramento Safari. Our new balance is \$1731.81. Invoices for \$35 LegCo are available. All members asked to pay \$35 dues from their organization/school. Members at large are responsible for their dues individually. Tax exempt forms and invoices are available. Receipts to be given upon receipt of dues.

Rachel Monarrez: Superintendent

- Listening and learning themes and how connected to LCAP were presented to board beginning of February.
 - Themes by priorities: facilities and learning environments (specifically middle and elementary); 2. Providing the learning environment we need - compensation and support (keeping OUSD competitive - for certificated and classified) 3. Student support (broad - academic, thriving, social emotional support), community is saying the same thing 4. Community engagement and communication (differences were minimal) communicating what's going on with OUSD - 2 way communication, where are we going as a district. Started new outreach. Tell the story of OUSD. There are great hidden treasures about OUSD (CTE). We need to be more intentional.
 - Input on LCAP - alignment areas: teaching and learning, facilities and infrastructure; wellness and safety, extracurricular and advancement opportunities. (will all fold into strategic roadmap)
 - Grateful for the state's funding of afterschool programming
 - Brought in 3rd party Inspire School Services for roadmap - reviewing information and documents. Will be working with a committee. Will be ready for board approval for summer. Wants time for implementation next school year. Will have benchmarks after implementation.
 - The Edge sunset last year.
 - Comment: We hope we don't forget the history when we're looking at new ideas: still want us to look like OUSD when we're done.
 - Kathy Moffat: Sacramento Safari: Carl Cohn was keynote speaker - praises OUSD for bringing in Ms. Monarrez

Matthew Witmer: OUSD

- One of the treasures of OUSD - 24 CTE pathways will have 26 next year.
- E-sports and sustainable water systems

Lisa Green, OUSD

- Strong CTE in secondary schools
- Important to bring to younger age - TK
- Get to know careers and know themselves. She wants exposure to careers and majors.

Ashley Higuera, OUSD

- Product of old ROP

- Career readiness lattice
- Career connected schools - Canyon Rim and La Veta focused on Riosec(profiler) they're identifying themselves - what they like, what they're interested in - enhance connections to what they're learning and how it helps for them in the future.
 - Trainings at Nohl Canyon, Panorama
 - Career awareness and personal identity
 - CTE information tonight
 - RIOSEC: all counselors have been trained
 - Trying to identify gap(SES)
 - Making curriculum crosswalk - make sure teachers are aware
 - CTE starts in middle school.
 - Project based learning
 - Opportunity to earn college credit (dual enrollment).
 - On 15 industry sectors and we represent 13
 - Programs funded by grants - are they federal grants? - federal grants have not been interrupted. Santiago is trying to align with CTE programs, El Rancho not offering at this time.
 - CTE partnership with GGUSD, SAUSD and OUSD.
 - Plan to expand to more elementary? They're already doing career readiness vocab - want to align them more with the RISOC - will crosswalk curriculums for focused learning model. So students know their why?
 - Taft did a wonderful job for their career day
 - Working with schools on their career days.

Kris Erickson, OUSD Board Trustee

- Grateful for staff and leadership
- National celebrations: Read Across America, Kindness Month, National Career Educational month
 - All of these things intersect. Need to build passion and opportunity. So important that we're doing all the things at once.

Sara Pelly, OUSD Board Trustee

- So glad we're going into the students for CTE in elementary
- So happy to hear we have common interests in keeping our students safe (suicide prevention, ebikes)
- Community and supporting each other
- Showcases , robotics, VAPA showcases, read at chapman hills, career days(great to have CTE involved), showcasing things that are great!
- Lunar New Year celebration: Steven Choi was there, gave a small business of the month award.

Andrea Yamasaki, OUSD Board Trustee

- We celebrated Lunar New Year at Jordan Academy and Fletcher as well. Thank you Senator Choi for joining.
- Sacramento Safari: thank you to our assemblymen and senators for meeting with us.

Old Business:

- No old business at this time

New Business:

- Nominating committee - if interested contact Arash Samandani
- Nicol Jones: OUPSF: VAPA showcase 3/24 and 3/25 at 6:00pm at Chapman's Memorial Hall free open to the public - bring everyone. Showcase of student artwork. Parking is free - park in the structure
- Banners go on sale next week - store is open again this year (order ahead leis, flowers, stuffies etc).

Meeting was adjourned by Lindsay Whiddon at 12:26pm

ATTACHMENTS: none

Next meeting: April 8, 2026

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Questions or comments: OUSDLegCo@gmail.com

For future meetings information and past minutes, go to:

<https://www.orangeusd.org/departments/board-of-education/legislative-coalition>